



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

December 10, 2003

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Children's Health and Well-Being Committee
Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH, Chair
David Crump, PhD
Charles Chu, DPM

**RE: ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL OF
WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN**

Background and Summary

The Board has focused considerable effort on making sure all Washington's children have access to preventive health services. Committee work conducted in 2000-2001 sought to identify the health care services to which children should have access, and to ascertain possible mechanisms for providing that care. In 2001, the State Board of Health (SBOH) developed a list of recommended children's clinical preventive services. The list is largely in step with the *US Preventive Services Task Force Guide to Preventive Services*, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations, and Medicaid's Early Periodic Screening, Detection, & Treatment Program (EPSDT).

The Board's recommendations were adopted as top priorities by the Governor's Subcabinet on Health and ultimately by the Governor in the *2002 State Health Report*. These policies were seen as limited cost alternatives because EPSDT was already paid for through Medical Assistance and because the Basic Health Plan and public employee medical plans also cover these services.

Committee work conducted in 2002-2003 continued efforts to encourage well-child checkups for children prior to entering school. This work culminated in production of the *Well-Child Exam Pilot Project Report* (a joint report prepared by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, and SBOH).

Well-child visit rates in Washington are improving, but despite our efforts and those of others they remain less than optimal. Some local initiatives, however, are showing great promise in increasing the numbers of well-child visits and consequently in boosting the benefits of preventive care for more children in our state. Today we will hear about three such efforts underway in Washington—Children's Preventive Care Initiative, Kids Get Care program, and Union Avenue Pediatrics in Tacoma.

The percent of reported and qualifying Well-Child visits in 2002 (from the Medical Assistance Administration) follow:

Reported and Qualifying* Well Child Visits by Age Category in 2002	Percentage
1-18 months olds - reported	63
1-18 months olds – qualifying	34
3-6 year olds - reported	41
3-6 years olds – qualifying	21
12-20 year olds – reported	38
12-20 year olds – qualified	20

* A qualifying rate includes documentation of: medical history and physical, height, weight, developmental screen, mental health screen, and anticipatory guidance and education.

Suggested Board Action

The Board may wish to consider, modify, or adopt the following statement:

The Board encourages state officials to maintain the highest priority on children's clinical preventive services consistent with past Board work and the adoption of the children's clinical preventive services priority by the Governor's Subcabinet on Health and by Governor Locke in the 2002 State Health Report. The Board recommends this priority be retained in the 2004 State Health Report, with a focus on eliminating barriers to full implementation, including those related to public awareness, clinical practice, information systems, health plan administration, and state purchasing. The Board urges state officials to pursue a range of incentives (including financial incentives for parents) to assure that all Washington's children receive proven clinical preventive health services.